

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2753

To require a program to improve the provision of caregiver assistance services for veterans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 2006

Mr. AKAKA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require a program to improve the provision of caregiver assistance services for veterans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS**

4 **OF VETERANS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall carry out a program to expand and improve the serv-
7 ices that assist caregivers of veterans, including veterans
8 of the Global War on Terrorism.

1 (b) CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE SERVICES.—For pur-
2 poses of this section, the term “caregiver assistance serv-
3 ices” includes the following:

4 (1) Adult-day health care services.

5 (2) Coordination of services needed by veterans,
6 including services for readjustment and rehabilita-
7 tion.

8 (3) Transportation services.

9 (4) Caregiver support services, including edu-
10 cation, training, and certification of family members
11 in caregiver activities.

12 (5) Home care services.

13 (6) Respite care.

14 (7) Hospice services.

15 (8) Any modalities of non-institutional long-
16 term care.

17 (c) FUNDING.—

18 (1) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the
19 program required by subsection (a), the Secretary
20 shall identify, from funds available to the Depart-
21 ment of Veterans Affairs for medical care, an
22 amount not less than \$10,000,000 to be available to
23 carry out the program and to be allocated to facili-
24 ties of the Department pursuant to subsection (d).

1 (2) MINIMUM ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—In
2 identifying available amounts pursuant to paragraph
3 (1), the Secretary shall ensure that, after the alloca-
4 tion of funds under subsection (d), the total expendi-
5 ture for programs in support of caregiver assistance
6 services for veterans is not less than \$10,000,000 in
7 excess of the baseline amount.

8 (3) BASELINE AMOUNT.—For purposes of para-
9 graph (2), the baseline amount is the amount of the
10 total expenditures on programs in support of care-
11 giver assistance services for veterans for the most
12 recent fiscal year for which final expenditure
13 amounts are known, adjusted to reflect any subse-
14 quent increase in applicable costs to support such
15 services through the Veterans Health Administra-
16 tion.

17 (d) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO FACILITIES.—The
18 Secretary shall allocate funds identified pursuant to sub-
19 section (c)(1) to individual medical facilities of the Depart-
20 ment in such amounts as the Secretary determines appro-
21 priate based upon proposals submitted by such facilities
22 for the use of such funds for improvements to the support
23 of the provision of caregiver assistance services for vet-
24 erans. Special consideration should be given to rural facili-

1 ties, including those without a long-term care facility of
2 the Department.

3 (e) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
5 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
6 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives a report on the implementation of this section.
8 The report shall include information on the allocation of
9 funds to facilities of the Department under subsection (d)
10 and a description of the improvements made with funds
11 so allocated to the support of the provision of caregiver
12 assistance services for veterans.

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